

AN ACT OF PRAISE AND PURPOSE

IN WEST KENSINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ON THE NIGHT OF THE BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL

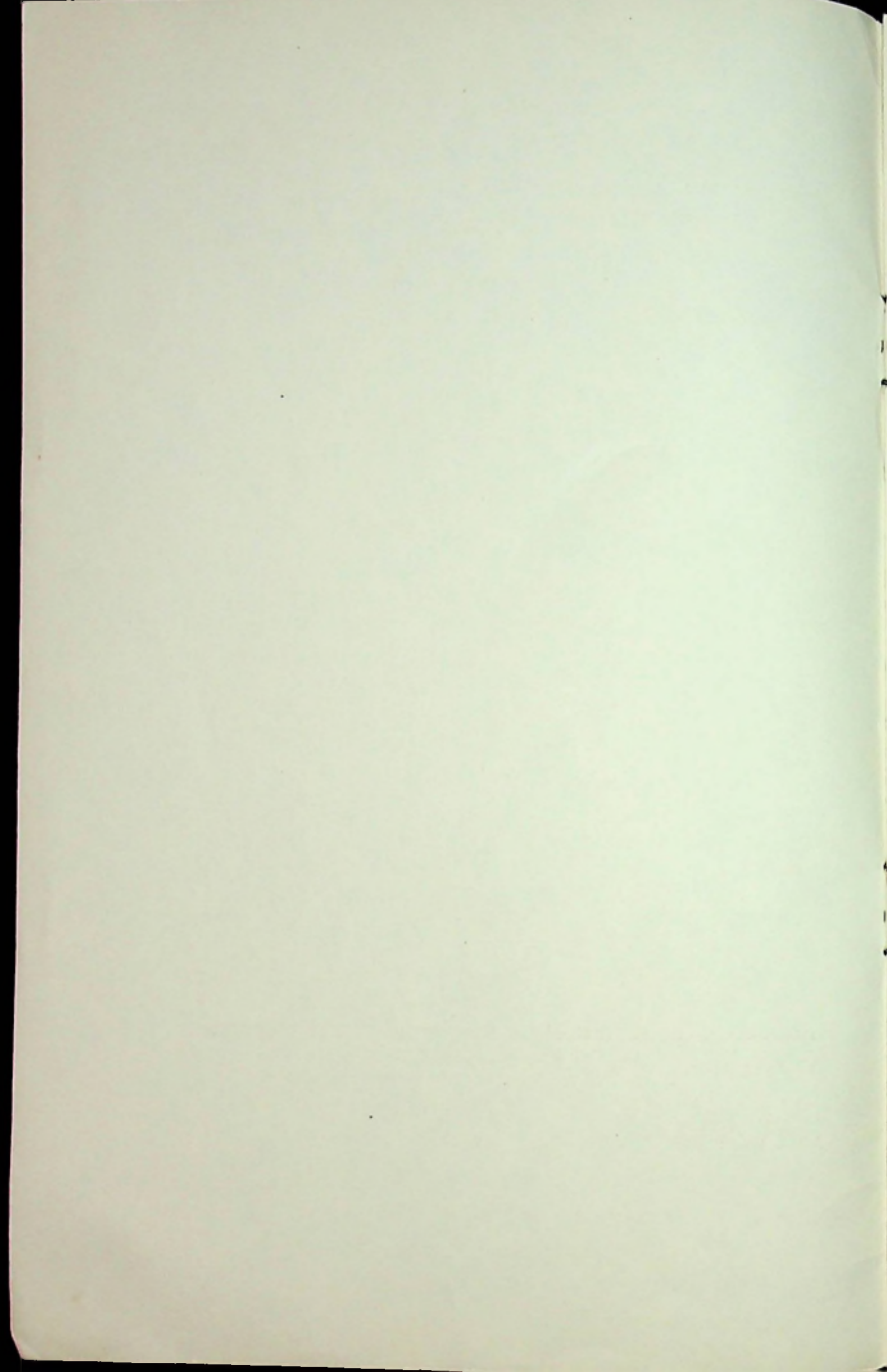
OF THE LONDON FEDERATION

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER

M C M X X V I



THEY WERE ALL CLOTHED IN THE LIVERIE
OF A SOLEMNE AND GREAT FESTIVITIE



AN ACT OF PRAISE AND PURPOSE
BEING THE ORDER OF SERVICE USED
IN WEST KENSINGTON CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH AT THE BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL
OF THE LONDON TOUCH FEDERATION
ON FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER
M C M X X V I

THE FESTIVAL HYMN (PAGE 8)
Out of Many into One

BIDDING PRAYERS

PADRE :

Albeit, He may not worthily be praised, who at this time sent Redemption unto His people, yet may we well remember His mercy and truth touching this House so wonderfully made. For He hath helped us, He hath kept us, He hath succoured us, He hath sheltered us, He hath spared us, He hath brought us to this hour.

MEMBERS OF 1915-1919 :

Once we were many ; then were we few ; then again were we many, now become a multitude ; but of the first few, how few we are who still remain ; and of that few, some now grow old, and some are but now gone to be with Him. Yet this is our witness : that once, in the wilderness of war He prepared a table and a place of joyful gladness for the true-hearted. There half-forgotten friends walked once again with their forgotten Master, and, above the tumult of death, overheard a nobler music for the lives of men. Thus far our witness.

ALL REPLY :

And we know your witness is true.

MEMBERS OF "1920—?" FOLLOW ON:

Hear now our part. The Spring whereat they drank has now become a wide river; gathering from East and West, and stretching well nigh from sea to sea. We also, in our day, would learn to face trial with exaltation; hate with love; our passions with His most Holy Passion. We too would learn the stern and simple way of attaining unto Him, who dwells in stillness at the heart of energy.

ALL:

Wherefore we, who are thus gathered together, high and low, rich and poor, one with another, would now compass ourselves about with songs of deliverance, and so pray that, by the mercy of the Most High, out of weakness we may be made strong.

PADRE:

Let us then pray for this our Family, that it may be ordained to bring forth fruit, and that its fruit may remain. Let us ask for the unity of the Spirit in our counsels, the bond of peace among our leaders, and righteousness of life throughout our membership, that the hunger of our hopes may be satisfied in a day of divine destiny.

And so much the more, as ye see this day approaching, be instant thus to pray:

Our Father

- v. It is good to hold fast by God:
- R. For no man hath quickened his own soul.
- v. A friend loveth at all times:
- R. And a brother is born for adversity.
- v. Courage, and let us go up
- R. To the mountain of the Lord.
- v. O House of Jacob, come ye:
- R. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
- v. He will teach us of his ways:
- R. We will walk in his paths.
- v. Teach me to do:
- R. For Thou art my God.

- v. O make us free from softness :
 R. And yet on fire with Love.
 v. For we are not of the night nor of the darkness :
 R. But children of the day.

THE WORKING MEMBERS' HYMN (PAGE 10)

Blessed be the Day

A CANTICLE OF PRAISE

The figures and letters at the opening of the paragraphs in the Canticle and Litany are merely for convenience in allocating the sections, according to our custom, to several leaders.

(1) Builders of Toc H, our Master bids us offer thanksgiving with those of every age and clime who have endeavoured to build for Him, and have accomplished more than they have known. Let us, then, thank God our Father whose joy is always joy in work well done, each for our tiny share in this brave building.

We thank Thee, O Father.

(2) We thank Thee for the men and women, who, having seen the vision, have sought and continue to seek courage and grace to make the dream come true.

We thank Thee, O Father.

(3) We thank Thee for the guidance that has never failed to lead us on through failure to a fresh attempt, and for the patience, and impatience too, wherewith Thou hast inspired us.

We thank Thee, O Father.

(4) We thank Thee for the dangers so wonderfully averted, for the mistakes so wonderfully made good ; for the disappointments out of which has sprung a deeper seeking and a truer learning.

We thank Thee, O Father.

(5) We thank Thee for the leaders, our fellow-servants for Christ's sake, for Padres, Jobmasters, Secretaries and Wardens ; for those serving on Councils and Committees ;

for all, who by their steadfastness and good example, have won men's wills towards Thee.

We thank Thee, O Father.

(6) For all the humblest, humdrum duties performed as in Thy sight; for house and office staffs, both young and old; for paid and unpaid helpers; for all by whom this service is performed as one of willing freedom.

We thank Thee, O Father.

(7) We thank Thee for all in Toc H, who, bearing no special office, and having no special skill, have yet been called to be His fellow-workers.

We thank Thee, O Father.

HYMN (PAGE 11)

Lord of the Strong

Here the Gospel shall be read and Preached

THE HYMN OF LIGHT (PAGE 13)

O Joyful Light

During the singing of the hymn, the collection will be taken, to be given (after defraying the expenses of the service) to the Toc H Chaplaincies Fund.

A LITTLE LITANY OF PURPOSE

Let us now offer our prayers for a Right Purpose.

(a) Let us ask God to help us to do all that He has commanded, that so Toc H may be a true House to Him, not made with human hands alone.

So help us, Lord, to build it.

(b) Let it stand, Lord, as a House of Witness for the truth; a place wherein Thou truly mayest be found.

So help us, Lord, to build it.

(c) Let it stand, Lord, all beautiful by the faithful following of Thy laws, arrayed in health and happiness, bold in design and prudent in right order.

So help us, Lord, to build it.

(d) Let it stand, Lord, though yet incomplete, yet vindicating, day by day, more fully Thy purpose in its fashioning.

So help us, Lord, to build it.

(e) Let it stand, Lord, ever at the heart of life; unavoidable in the full tide of noon-day; midmost where life runs strongest; that those who see it may thank Thee and take courage.

So help us, Lord, to build it.

Let us thank Him

v. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Let us pray

O GOD, Who hast filled the earth with the glory of Thy presence, and hast led Thy servants of old to build up Talbot House to be Thy dwelling place, grant that Thy sons and daughters who come within its influence may ever find Thee here; and going to and fro may truly take Thee with them. May we so build our lives that they may also be Houses wherein Thy Spirit dwells, filled with that strength and beauty which only comes from Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us join in the Prayer of Toc H

O GOD, Who hast so wonderfully made Toc H, and set men in it to see their duty as Thy will, teach us to live together in love and joy and peace; to check all bitterness; to disown discouragement; to practise thanksgiving, and to leap with joy to any task for others. Strengthen the good thing thus begun; that with gallant and high-hearted happiness we may work for Thy kingdom in the wills of men. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- v. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.
v. Let us bless the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Let us remember our Elder Brethren

- v. Well done, ye good and faithful servants :
R. Enter into the joy of your Lord.

Now the God of Peace, Who brought again from the dead that great Master of men by the blood of the everlasting covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make us perfect in every good work to do His will. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (PAGE 14)
O come, all ye faithful

NOTE: *The "Little Litany" has been freely adapted from the Order of Service for the Liverpool Cathedral Builders.*

THE HYMNS

1. Out of Many into One

Our of Many into One
Are we fashioned this night.
God, to us no winter sun,
Bids the lame lead on to light.
Father, who art Fount and Thirst!
Christ, men's Hunger and their Meat!
Spirit-knit, though world dispersed,
Stand we fearing, round, Thy feet.

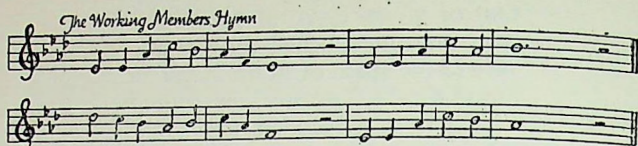
Out of violence, virtue shone.
This one thing defied the stream,
Where the spate of death swept on,
Stood God's Torture-Tree supreme.
Rising from a Flanders tomb,
While the world yet deem'd Him dead,
His the lamp that lights our room,
His the Hand that breaks our Bread.

Out of heart-break, hope is born.
Rough the road to Promised Lands.
Bruising flint and piercing thorn?
Fire and tinder 'neath your hands!
Thus, though sword and sea divide,
God's love knows no East and West
Where's the man would stand aside
From the tide of being blest?

Blest is he who lives in thrall
To the empery of good.
Blest the Master of us all,
Reigning richly from His Rood.
God, who makest glad our youth,
Keep us from presumptuous pride.
So may we live out Thy truth,
And constrain Thee to abide.

Grey-flecked head, and eager boy,
Gownsmen, townsman, pastor, priest,
'Troubadours of toil and joy,
Gather to this Household feast.
In the tuneful hearts of friends
Better music ne'er was blown:
From the land where hatred ends,
Comes "*Amen*" in antiphon.

P.B.C.



2. The Working Members' Hymn

Bless'd be the day when moved I was
 A pilgrim for to be,
 And blessed also be the Cause
 That thereto moved me.

Bless'd work, that drove me back to pray
 To strive to be sincere ;
 To take my Cross up day by day,
 And serve the Lord with fear.

Yet long it is since I began
 And little have I done,
 God give me grace to play the man,
 And heed my heart and tongue.

To seize the road from doubt to faith
 For feet beside mine own,
 To climb from self to purer breath,
 Unknown and yet well-known.

With Master Fearing, may I fear
 My God and be afraid
 Of doing anything while here
 That may have Him betrayed.

With servant Great-heart, who arose
 The children's Guide to be,
 For those who trust me, I'd oppose
 Each Giant enemy.

He that me seeks shall now be sought.
 Surrendered here I stand,
 A truant eager to be taught
 His purpose for my hand.

Life, like an unencumbered flood,
 Leaps to the sea and sky. .
 At last, beyond the slough of mood,
 Master, thy man am I.

P.B.C., after John Bunyan



The setting by
Sir Maurice Hankey

Revised by
Basil Johnson

3. Lord of The Strong

Lord of the strong, when earth you trod,
You calmly faced the angry sea,
And fierce, unmasked hypocrisy,
The traitor's kiss, the rabble's hiss,
The awful death upon the tree.

All glory be, all glory be,
All glory be to God.

Lord of the weak, when earth you trod,
Oppressors writhed beneath your scorn;
The weak, despised, depraved, forlorn,
You taught to hope, and know the scope
Of love divine for all who mourn.

All glory be, all glory be,
All glory be to God.

Lord of the rich, when earth you trod,
To Mammon's power you never bowed,
But taught how men with wealth endowed
In meekness' school might learn to rule
The demon that enslaves the proud.

All glory be, all glory be,
All glory be to God.

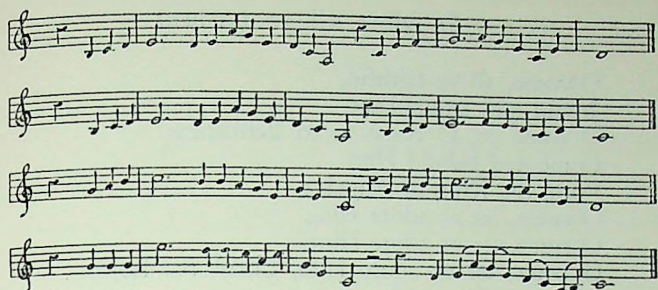
Lord of the poor, when earth you trod,
The lot you chose was hard and poor ;
You taught us hardness to endure,
And so to gain, through hurt and pain,
The wealth that lasts for evermore.

All glory be, all glory be,
All glory be to God.

Lord of us all, when earth you trod,
The life you led was perfect, free,
Defiant of all tyranny :
Now give us grace that we may face
Our foes with like temerity.

All glory be, all glory be,
All glory be to God.

Donald Hankey



Londonderry Air

4. O Joyful Light

O Joyful Light, O Glory of the FATHER,
 Holy, beloved, JESU CHRIST, our LORD.
 Now without fear we see the darkness gather,
 For that on us Thy evening light is poured.
 All through the night, whatever storm assail us—
 Passion or pain, despair and shame and loss—
 Thou, till the day, wilt hold and never fail us,
 Victor before us of the bitter Cross!

Never the path so lost, but in Thee only
 Trusting we see, and, seeking, find a way :
 Strength of the tempted, Brother of the lonely,
 From out our darkness bringest Thou the day.
 Lo, having Thee, we lose not one another,
 Sundered—united, dying but to birth ;
 All worlds are one in Thee, O more than Brother,
 And one our family in Heaven and Earth.

So shine in us, our little love reproving,
 That souls of men may kindle at the flame ;
 All the world's hatred, broken by our loving,
 Shall bow to Love, Thine everlasting Name.
 Therefore to Thee be praises and thanksgiving.
 To FATHER, SON, and COMFORTER DIVINE :
 We lift our voice and sing, with all things living,
 Giver of Life, the Glory that is Thine.

B.B.

5. O come all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him
Born, the King of Angels ;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God,
Begotten, not created ;
O come, let us adore Him.— etc.

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exaltation,
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above :
“Glory to God
In the Highest.”
O come, let us adore Him,— etc.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning ;
Jesu, to Thee be glory given ;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing ;
O come, let us adore Him,— etc.

